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OF THE

SPELLING REFORM ASSOCIATION.

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THE COMMITTEES' REPORTS AND OUR NEW ALPHABET.

The reports of the Committees on New Spelling of the American Philological Association and of the Spelling Reform Association have now been made and adopted by these Associations. They contain a statement of the end at which the reformers should aim, the principles which should direct their action, the best methods of progress, and a considerable number of matter-of-fact suggestions, among which is a complete phonetic alphabet.

We shall devote this number of our Bulletin mainly to setting forth and illustrating these reports.

At the annual meeting of the American Philological Association, in 1874, at Hartford, the President, Prof. F. A. March, in the opening address, spoke at some length on the reform of spelling. He said, among other things:—

It is of no use to try to characterize with fitting epithets and adequate terms of obprobrium the monstrous spelling of the English language.

The time lost by it is a large part of the whole school-time of the mass of men. Count the hours that each man wastes in learning to read at school, the hours which he wastes through life from the hindrance to easy reading, the hours wasted at school in learning to spell, the hours spent through life in keeping up and perfecting this knowledge of spelling, in consulting dictionaries, a work that never ends, the hours that he spends in writing silent

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letters; and multiply this time by the number of persons who speak English, and we shall have a total of millions of years wasted by each generation. The cost of printing the silent letters of the English language is to be counted by millions of dollars for each generation. And yet literary amateurs fall in love with these squintings and lisplings. They try to defend them by pleading their advantage in the study of etymology. But a changeless orthography destroys the material for etymological study, and written records are valuable to the philologist just in proportion as they are accurate records of speech as spoken from year to year.

Beyond all doubt this reform will by and by be accomplished. Year by year the power of combined action is better understood and more easily attained. Perhaps our American Philological Association, as a great popular organization of linguistic scholarship, may rapidly attain an influence which may give it powers of reform as yet unsuspected. We have sometimes thought a special league among our scholars might be formed for this end, in which one by one might be pledged to particular efforts for reform, and so large a number be brought together finally, as to overbear popular inertia and prejudice, and introduce reformed books in the schools. Then publishers would be found to print all the books needed, and more.

At the annual meeting, in 1875, at Newport, the President, Prof. J. Hammond Trumbull, again took up the subject. He said:—

In the devious mazes of American linguistics it is easy to lose one's way and forget the time. Let us return homeward, to say something about a language in which members of the Association have a more direct and selfish interest than in the Algonkin, — a language which, in spite of the predictions of Noah Webster, that a "future separation of the *American* tongue was necessary," Americans still love to call *English*.

There are indications of increased interest in this subject. The popular mind seems awake, as never before, to appreciation of the difficulties, eccentricities, and absurdities of the present standard-English cacography. The remarks of Professor March, in his address to the Association, last year, have been extensively copied, and apparently meet very general approval. Professor Whitney's discussion of the question, "How shall we spell?" has helped expose the weakness of the stereotyped objections urged against reform. Legislators are beginning to look at the subject from the economic point of view, as related to popular educa-

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tion, and are considering how much bad spelling costs the country per annum. A bill is now before the Legislature of Connecticut for the appointment of a commission to inquire and report as to the expediency of employing a reformed orthography in printing the laws and journals. The "spelling matches" which, last winter, became epidemic, had their influence, by bringing more clearly to popular apprehension the anomalies of the current orthography, and disposed many to admit (with Mr. A. J. Ellis) that "to spell English is the most difficult of human attainments."

Among scholars there is little difference of opinion on the main question, Is reform of the present spelling *desirable*? The objection, that reform would obscure etymology, is not urged by real etymologists. "Our common spelling is often an untrustworthy guide to etymology," as Professor Hadley averred; and Professor Max Müller's declaration that, "if our spelling followed the pronunciation of words, it would in reality be of greater help to the critical student of language than the present uncertain and unscientific mode of writing," receives the nearly unanimous assent of English scholars.

Equally unfounded is the objection that words when decently spelled would lose their "historic interest." The modern orthography is, superlatively, *unhistorical*. Instead of guiding us to, it draws us from, the "well of English undefyled." The only history it can be trusted to teach begins with the publication of Johnson's dictionary.

The greatest obstacle to reform is the want of agreement among scholars as to the best mode of effecting it. What seems an improvement to one is regarded by another as an undesirable innovation, or, perhaps, as a new deformity. Few men are without a pet orthographical prejudice or two, and the more unreasonable these are, the more obstinately they are held fast.

Perhaps the most that can be hoped for, at present, is some approximation to general agreement, as to the words, or classes of words, for which an amended spelling may be adopted, concurrent with that which is now in use. A list of words "in reference to which present usage in the United States or in England sanctions more than one way of spelling," is prefixed to Webster's and Worcester's dictionaries. A similar list, prepared under judicious limitations, exhibiting side by side the present and a reformed spelling, — and an agreement of prominent scholars, in England and America, that the use of either form shall be recognized as allowable spelling, — would go far towards ensuring the success of reform.

It is in compliance with suggestions repeatedly made, and

from various quarters, that this subject has been brought to the consideration of the Association. It is for you to decide whether it is advisable to take any action for promoting and directing the popular movement for reformed orthography.

On motion it was —

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the President, to whom shall be referred so much of his annual address as treats of a reformation of English spelling.

Professor Francis A. March, of Lafayette College, Professor S. S. Haldeman, of the University of Pennsylvania, and Professor Lewis R. Packard, of Yale College, were appointed such committee, and on the third day of the session reported:—

It does not seem desirable to attempt such sweeping changes as to leave the general speech without a standard, or to render it unintelligible to common readers; but the changes adopted in our standards of the written speech have lagged far behind those made in the spoken language, and the present seems to be a favorable time for a rapid reform of many of the worst discrepancies. The committee think that a considerable list of words may be made, in which the spelling may be changed, by dropping silent letters and otherwise, so as to make them better conform to the analogies of the language and draw them nearer to our sister languages and to a general alphabet, and yet leave them recognizable by common readers; and that the publication of such a list under the authority of this Association would do much to accelerate the progress of our standards and the general reform of our spelling.

They recommend that a committee be raised, to consist of the first president of the Association (Professor W. D. Whitney) and other recognized representatives of our great universities and of linguistic science, to whom the whole subject be referred, and who may prepare and print such a list of words if they think best, and who be requested to report at the next meeting of the Association.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to take the whole matter into consideration, with power to sit in the recess, and to report at the next meeting of the Association; and that the committee consist of Professor W. D. Whitney of Yale College, Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull of Yale College, Professor F. J. Child of Harvard University, Professor F. A. March of Lafay-

ette College, and Professor S. S. Haldeman of the University of Pennsylvania.

At the annual meeting in 1876, at New York, Professor W. D. Whitney, chairman of the committee, presented the report : —

1. The true and sole office of alphabetic writing is, faithfully and intelligibly to represent spoken speech. So-called "historical" orthography is only a concession to the weakness of prejudice.

2. The ideal of an alphabet is that every sound should have its own unvarying sign, and every sign its own unvarying sound.

3. An alphabet intended for use by a vast community need not attempt an exhaustive analysis of the elements of utterance, and a representation of the nicest varieties of articulation; it may well leave room for the unavoidable play of individual and local pronunciation.

4. An ideal alphabet would seek to adopt for its characters forms which should suggest the sounds signified, and of which the resemblances should in some measure represent the similarities of the sounds. But for general practical use there is no advantage in a system which aims to depict in detail the physical processes of utterance.

5. No language has ever had, or is likely to have, a perfect alphabet; and, in changing and amending the mode of writing of a language already long written, regard must necessarily be had to what is practically possible quite as much as to what is inherently desirable.

6. To prepare the way for such a change, the first step is to break down, by the combined influence of enlightened scholars and of practical educators, the immense and stubborn prejudice which regards the established modes of spelling almost as constituting *the* language, as having a sacred character, as in themselves preferable to others. All agitation and all definite proposals of reform are to be welcomed so far as they work in this direction.

7. An altered orthography will be unavoidably offensive to those who are first called upon to use it; but any sensible and consistent new system will rapidly win the hearty preference of the mass of writers.

8. The Roman alphabet is so widely and firmly established in use among the leading civilized nations that it cannot be displaced: in adapting it to improved use for English, the efforts of scholars should be directed towards its use with uniformity and in conformity with other nations.

The report was accepted, and, on motion of Prof. Whitney, the Committee on the Reform of English Spelling was continued for one year, with Professor F. A. March as Chairman.

At the annual meeting in 1877, at Baltimore, the President, Prof. S. S. Haldeman, devoted a large part of his address to this subject, and we expect to present it in full, hereafter, to our readers. The committee made a further report, as follows:—

The attempt to prepare an English alphabet according to the principles laid down in the Report of last year brings out the following facts:—

1. There are eighteen Roman letters which commonly represent in English nearly the same elementary sounds which they represented in Latin: *a* (father), *b*, *c* (*k*, *q*), *d*, *e* (met), *f*, *g* (go), *h*, *i* (pick), *l*, *m*, *n*, *o* (go), *p*, *r*, *s* (so), *t*, *u* (full).

2. The consonant sounds represented in Latin by *i* and *u* are now represented by *y* and *w*, and the sonants corresponding to *f* and *s* are now represented by *v* and *z*.

3. There are three short vowels unknown to the early Romans which are without proper representatives in English, those in *fat*, *not*, *but*.

4. There are five elementary consonants represented by digraphs: *th* (*thin*), *th* = *dh* (*thine*, *then*), *sh* (*she*), *zh* (*azure*), *ng* (*sing*); to which may be added *ch* (*church*), *g* (*j*).

It seems best to follow the Latin and other languages written in Roman letters, in the use of a single sign for a short vowel and its long, distinguishing them, when great exactness is required, by a diacritical mark.

The alphabet would then have thirty-two letters.

Twenty-two of these have their common form and power as described above in statements 1 and 2.

The three vowels in *fat*, *not*, *but*, need new letters. Without laying any stress on the exact form, it is recommended to try some modification of *a*, *o*, and *u*, such as *a*, *o*, *u*.

For the consonants now represented by digraphs new letters would be desirable, but no particular forms are now recommended. The following are mentioned:

ð, ð (then); þ, þ (thin); ʃ, ʃ (sh); ʒ (zh); ŋ (ng); ç (ch).

The use of these letters with only these powers and the dropping of silent letters will so change the look of large numbers of words that they will not be recognized at sight. It seems necessary therefore that there should be a transition period, and for that the following suggestions are made:—

1. Transition characters may be used resembling, if possible, two letters :

For <i>a</i> in <i>fate</i> , <i>a</i> may be used in place of <i>ē</i> .			
" <i>e</i> "	<i>mete</i> , <i>ē</i>	" "	" <i>ī</i> .
" <i>i</i> "	<i>fine</i> , <i>ī</i>	" "	" <i>ai</i> .
" <i>u</i> "	<i>pure</i> , <i>ū</i> or <i>u</i>	" "	" <i>iu</i> .
" <i>s</i> "	<i>as</i> , <i>z</i>	" "	" <i>z</i> .
" <i>g</i> "	<i>gem</i> , <i>q</i>	" "	" <i>j</i> .
" <i>c</i> "	<i>cent</i> , <i>ç</i>	" "	" <i>s</i> .

2. The digraphs now representing single consonants may be named and otherwise treated as single letters.

3. New letters can be easiest introduced by using them only for the old letters which they resemble in form.

4. Long words bear changes best, and vowels are more easily changed than consonants, which project more above and below the line. Dropping final silent *e* is the easiest change.

On motion the report was adopted, no one dissenting.

This movement in the Philological Association has been attended by the reading of papers on special points of the reform, and has called out no opposition, or dissent.

At the annual meeting of the Spelling Reform Association, in 1877, at Baltimore, the Committee on New Spellings, Professors F. A. March, S. S. Haldeman, and W. D. Whitney, made a final report on the schemes of new letters and new spellings referred to them, which recited the action of the Philological Association, and reported for general use, and for the publications of the association, the alphabet therein set forth; and recommended the attempt to bring it into immediate use, in the manner set forth in the final suggestions of the report.

This report was adopted, no one dissenting.

Prof. Whitney, in his remarks to the Philological Association, spoke of the fact that new letters had heretofore been won to the Roman alphabet by setting apart two forms of the same letter each to one of two sounds before indicated by it. C and G in early Latin, I and J, V and U, in modern times, are examples; so we propose to separate *a* and *ā*, *u* and *ū*, *o* and *ō*.

The so-called letters of transition are letters not needed in the ultimate alphabet proposed: *s* is a letter to be kept, and it has the same sound as *ç*, which should therefore ultimately give way to *s*. So *j* and *z* are established letters, *q* and *z* are expedients to introduce common readers, without shock, to the

distinction they indicate; j and q are not both wanted in an ideal alphabet, one or the other will finally die out; so, in the opinion of the committee, is it with the ü = iu, î = ai, è = i, a = ē or ei; they think that full forms are best for diphthongs, that i will answer for both *pin* and *machine*, and that a is not wanted for *there*, *weight* or *they*.

The Alphabet.

All the vowels should be named by their sounds: c should be called kè, ç sè, g gè, q jè, h hè, z za, w wè, y yè. The digraph consonants should not be spoken of as two letters, but ch should be called ech, sh ish, th eth, dh thè, zh zhè, ng ing.

Letters of transition are in parenthesis, letters merely suggested are in brackets.

a	father, far.	ng [ŋ]	king, ink
a	fat, (fare).	o	no, obey.
(e) = ē	potato.	ø	net, what, nør, wall.
b	bat.	p	pet.
c = k, q	cat.	(q)	(quit) cwit.
(ç) = s	çent.	r	rat.
ch [ç]	church.	s	so.
d	did.	(z) = z	aæ.
e	met, thère, thēy.	sh [ʃ, ʃ]	shè, sugar.
(è, e) = i	mè, hè.	t	tell.
f	fit, filsofer.	th [p, ʔ]	thin, author, pith.
g	go.	dh, th [d̥, d]	then, other, with.
(q) = j	gem.	u	full, rùle, fool.
h	hè.	(ü, u) = iu	müzic.
i	it, capriçe.	v	but, burn.
(î) = ai	frîar.	w	vat.
j	jet.	x	wo.
(k)	kin.	(x) = cs	wax.
l	lo, noble.	y	yè.
m	mè.	z	zone.
n	no.	zh [ʒ]	azure.

Diphthongs not mentioned: ei, coïn; au = (ou), staut.

Script Forms of New and Transition Letters.

far,	Arm,	a	A
fat,	Ar,	a.	a. A
tabl,	Cibl,	a.	u
acid,	Cent,	c	c
Church		ch	[g] Ch
mei,	Era,	i	e e
chang,	Gem,	g	G
friar,	Pron,	j	J
king,	ink,	ny	[ny]

o	O	not,	Or,
z	z	has,	haz,
sh.	[f]	Sh	she, sugar, Ship,
th	Th		loveth, Thin,
th	Th.		then, Thin,
ii	U		miisic, Us,
y	Y		mysic, Up
v	V		but, Urn,
zh	[z]		azur

The above plates poorly represent the script characters, but rather than delay the publication of the Bulletin longer, they are used. They will give the idea of the form, and in another edition a handsomely engraved plate will take their place.

Theç as in church, instead of being looped like a ç should be made like a ç.

Necessary New Letters.

Some persons find they cannot read Bell or Pitman, and so come out against all new letters. We have no new letters in that sense: *a* is as old as *a*, *v* is older than *u*, *g* is as well known as *g*; every body knows *o* or *ç*. Printers can make up a full alphabet from old types with a pen-knife.

1. *a* is the common script and italic *a* with the curve righted. Printers may make it with a file or pen-knife by cutting off the upper stem of *d* (*a*), or the lower stem of *q* (*a*); or they can use italic or script *a*. Capital the same, or inverted *D* (*A*).

2. *a* needs a new script form. It may be made like the figure 2 with a lower left hand loop well opened, or like a looped *d*, or by making *z* as the left side of script *a* (*a*), or by adding a top to script *a*.

3. *ø* is (*ö*) with the short sign dropped into it. Printers may use *ö* for it, or a small capital *Q* or *e* inverted (*ø*), (*o*). The script and the capital have the same form.

4. *u* is a round-bottomed *v*. Printers may use for it a small capital *u*, or may cut off the lower right hand curve of *u* (*u*), or the top of *o* (*o*). In script the round bottom is the essential thing. Capital *u* must now be made like small *u* (*u*),

5. *ch*, *dh*, *th*, *sh*, *zh*, *ng*, should be cast as ligatures, but printers can use separate types, and when the letters are sounded separately, put a hyphen between them (in-grate). In script *dh* may be made like *th*, only looping to the left the bottom of the *t*. A transition capital *Th* = *Dh* is needed.

Transition Letters.

1. *a* for *a* in fate is *e* with *i* added. It needs a new type. but printers may cut off the lower right-hand curve of *a* and invert it (*e*). Script is like the print. The capital has the same form.

2. *è* for *e* in me is an *i* with a loop added. It needs a new type. Printers may use inverted *a* (*e*). Script *e* is a dotted *e*. For a capital, file away half the right arms of *E* (*E*), or the right stem of *H* (*E*), or the upper arm of *F* (*E*).

3. *j* for *i* in mine is *ai* with the *a* subscript. It needs a new type. Printers may use inverted *r* (*j*). In script a loop will do for the subscript *a*. For a capital, file away the left stem of *H* (*I*), or file the upper right arm of *F*, and invert it (*I*).

4. *ü* is short for *iu*. Printers may use the common German letter, or *iu*. *y* is for *yu*. Printers can use inverted *h* (*y*). The capitals have the same forms. A cut *Q* (*Q*) may be used.

5. ç has s subscript. The common French çedilla may be used, or 5 filed and inverted(q), or s. Capital the same.

6. q for g in gem may be distinguished in script by dotting g. Printers can use italic g or j. Capital the same, or (9).

7. a is a z without angles. The capital, if needed, has the same form. Printers may file the angles of z.

It will be noticed that there are several steps mentioned in the introduction of the new spelling. Among them are: (1) The use of new letters for those which they resemble in form, leaving the old spelling in other respects unchanged; (2) The dropping silent letters, especially final e; (3) Complete phonetic spelling. The following extract will illustrate the first and third of these, and the rest of this paper will be printed, so as to illustrate the joint effect of the first and second. In pronunciation we follow the old authorities. We amend ORTHOGRAPHY, not ORTHOEPEY. Difficulties arise, as with the articles *a* and *the*, and many unaccented vowels, with *ask*, *pass*, *after*, and the like, and with *fare*, *there*, and the like. As to all such consult Webster and Worcester.

The Predigal Sun. — Luke xv. 11–20.

New lettera üsd only for tho Webster's Pronunshiasun in
they rëzembl in form. the alfabet ov the Asoshiasun.

11. A çertain man had two 11. A çertin man had tu
suna :

12. And the younger of them 12. And the yunggur ov
said to his father, Father, give them sed tu his fathur, Fathur,
më the portion of gooda that giv më the porshun ov guda
falleth to më. And he divided that foleth tu më. And he
unto them his living. divided untu them his living.

13. And not many days after, 13. And not meni dea aftur,
the younger sun gathered all the yunggur sun gathurd el
together, and took his journëy tugethur, and tuk his jurni intu
into a far country, and there a far cuntri, and ther wasted
wasted his substance with rijot- his substanç with rijutus living.
ous living.

14. And, when he had spent 14. And, hwen he had spent
all, there arose a mighty famine el, ther arose a mïti famin in
in that land, and he began to that land, and he bigan tu bë
bë in want. in went.

15. And hē went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and hē sent him into his fields to feed swine.

16. And hē would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

17. And, when hē came to himself, hē said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger.

18. I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee,

19. And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

20. And hē arose and came to his father. But when hē was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion on him, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

15. And hē went and joind himself tu a citizen ev that cuntry, and hē sent him intu his fēlds tu fēd swīn.

16. And hē wud fen hav fild his beli with the husks that the swīn did et: and no man gev untu him.

17. And, hwen hē cam tu himself, hē sed, Hau meni hīrd servants ev mī fathur's hav bred inuf and tu sper, and I perish with hunggur.

18. I wil arīz and go tu mī fathur, and wil se untu him, Fathur, I hav sind agenst hevn and bīfor the,

19. And am no mor wurthi tu bē celd thī sun; mak mē as wun ev thī hīrd servants.

20. And hē arose and cam tu his fathur. But hwen hē woa yet a grāt wa of, his fathur sē him, and had cōmpashun on him, and ran, and fel on his nec, and kist him.

To Radical Reformers.

It will be seen from this setting forth of the reports, that the committee have thought it necessary to determine first the ideal alphabet, that all particular changes may be made with reference to it. *Could* is a standing example of unpardonable spelling; the *l* is sheer blunder, the *ou* has a wrong sound. Shall we write *cud*, *cood*, *kud*, *kood*, *cud*, or what? Before we can tell we must fix our ideal English alphabet. Reformers who think it best to make no compromise, but to begin at once with perfect phonetic spelling, can here find their alphabet, and go right to work with all their might, in full harmony with the association and

with the scholars of all countries. Where the committee leave a choice between two characters for any sound, as they do between *c* and *k* and between the characters mentioned for *ch*, *th*, *dh*, *sh*, *zh*, *ng*, each reformer is desired to choose for himself; all will be found to work in harmony. It is to be hoped there may be a great host of these leaders of the van, and that they will bestir themselves mightily in urging on the rest of us laggards. Let them abuse us roundly, if they like, and cudgel and drive us as well as cheer and lead us.

Proposition 3d, in the committee's first report, is worthy of special attention from these leaders. Perfect popular alphabets cannot attempt to distinguish every nicety of articulation. Scientific notation for the study of phonology is a different matter. Do not refuse to use the alphabet of the Association because you can distinguish shades of sound which it does not; of course you can. Mr. Ellis's 300 letters and more are well known to the committee. But such nicety is not needed for common printing. Scholars are well agreed as to the number of sounds which really need to be distinguished. Sum, we know, will, after all, think there ought to be separate signs for each long and each short vowel, even in popular print. Such will see that our transition letters give them their long vowels, except *e* in *ner*, *u* in *burn*, and *u* in *rule*. For these we suggest to those who will not use an accent or Parkhurst's modifications, the Pitman *o*, small capital *u*, and inverted *m*.

Gradual Progress.

It will be seen that the committee did not stop with the comparatively easy task of telling what we want. Reform is a gradual advance. Means of hastening the general progress have been earnestly sought. Such means have been found, partly in leaving untouched certain consonant digraphs already established in use for elementary sounds, partly in the use of new letters of such form as to be recognized without special instruction, and partly in laying down principles according to which methodical progress may be made in introducing new letters and dropping old. In the invention of new letters the besetting sin is ingenuity. There is a fatal facility in thinking of nice little curves and angles and dots. But every thing must be of the simplest for the use of the masses. The Roman alphabet masters the world, because, for one thing, there are no ingenuities about it. It admits only a few great plain movements of the pen. It is thought the new letters here suggested are fairly in harmony with the old.

Proper Order of Changes.

NEW LETTERS. — For readers the introduction of new letters is the easiest change. Printers do the work for them. It is advised to use new letters at first only for the old letters which they resemble in form. We are now illustrating this way of using them. It is not necessary, however, to use them all. Printers are urged to use one or two, if they think more or dangerous. Most important are *o* and *u*, then *a*. New *g* for *g* with the sound of *j*, may be used without disturbing the most fastidious; so may *ç* and *ë*. Let them be tried. Send for the types, or, if you fancy, you can make a supply of *u*, *a*, *o*, with pen-knife or file in a few minutes. Neither is dependent on the others; every one used is clear gain.

DROPPING LETTERS. — Writing is a different matter from reading. Old muscular habits interfere with new letters, or any other changes in writing. Children will learn the new as readily as the old; but for grown persons, the easiest changes, on the whole, are the dropping of silent letters. One can easily tell when he is through a word. Vowels are easiest among final letters, and among vowels, *e*. Final *e* has several grades. When silent after a short vowel it is both wasteful and blundering; *hav* spells the word intended; *have* should rhyme with *gave*, *slave*, *knave*, etc.; *genuin* spells the word, *genuine* is a vulgar corruption. Long words bear changes better than short words. So that we have the following order for dropping silent final *e* and other silent letters: —

I. FINAL SILENT E.

1. With short preceding vowel. (*a*) In long words: practicable, accessible, imbecile, periwinkle, medicine, treatise, recompense, hypocrite, infinite, indicative. Many hundreds of words belong to this class, in great part learned terms from Greek or Latin, and common to many languages. To scholars they look more natural and scholarly, as most languages write them, without the final *e*. (*b*) In short words: *hav*, *liv*, *giv*.

2. With long vowel preceding. (*a*) The long sound represented by two letters in the old spelling: frontispiece, peace, voice, release, believe, perceive, praise, poise, etc. (*b*) The long sound represented by a single letter in old spelling: imbibe, globe, popular, suffice, undertake, provoke, confiscate, constitute, persecute, and hundreds more.

It will be seen that there are degrees of difficulty in parting with silent *e*; but on the whole it is simplest never to write it. Everybody can understand that.

Drop it also in plurals and other inflections: infinitive, representative, give, live, compel, etc.

II. T FOR ED.

Another easy change common in old English, and again becoming so, is to write *t* for *ed*, when it is so pronounced: *kist*, *worshipt*, *lasht*, *imprest*, *approacht*, etc.

III. OTHER LETTERS.

For further suggestions we add the following from a report made to the Philadelphia meeting:—

1. Omit final *ue* in *catalog*, *collèag*, *harang*, &c.
2. Omit *a* from the digraph *ea* when pronounced as *e*-short: *hed*, *heven*, *helth*, *welth*, *zealous*, &c.
3. Omit *gh* when silent, and supply its place with *f* when pronounced as *f*: *dafter*, *slaughter*, *bout*, *tho*, *altho*, *enuf*, *ruf*, &c.
4. Write *f* for *ph* in *alphabet*, *fantom*, *camfor*, *philosophy*, &c.
5. Write *k* or *c* for *ch* in all words in which *ch* is pronounced as *k*: *architect*, *monarch*, *chemistry*, *character*, *chronicle*, &c.
6. Omit *b*, *c*, *d*, *f*, *g*, *h*, *k*, *l*, *m*, *n*, *o*, *p*, *r*, *s*, *t*, *w*, *z*, *ch*, *rh*, and *th* when silent, as in the following examples:—
b in *eb*, *det*, *lam*, *lim*, &c.
c in *abscess*, *abscond*, *acquiesce*, *coalesce*, *effervesce*, *scent*, *septem*, *similar*, *scion* (*scion*), *vital*, &c.
d in *Wednesday*, *ad*, *od*, &c.
f in *buff*, *bluff*, *cliff*, *muff*, *scarf*, *stiff*, &c.
g in *apothem*, *arraign*, *campaign*, *naul*, *nash*, *naw*, *eg*, &c.
h in *ghost*, *agast*, *gastly*, *rim*, *rubarb*, *retoric*, *burg*, &c.; *onest*, *onor*, *our*, &c.
k in *neck*, *nead*, *neel*, *knif*, *knock*, &c.
l in *balm* (*balm*), *cam*, *pam*, *salm* (*psalm*), *shal*, *wel*, &c.
m in *nemonic*, &c.
n in *Autumn*, *condem*, *dam*, *selem*, *hym* (*hymn*), &c.
p in *numatic*, *nümonia*, *salm* (*psalm*), *südonym*, &c.
r in *bur*, *er*, *pur*, &c.
s in *appropo*, *il* (*isle*), *iland*, *il* (*aisle*), *vicount*, &c.; *bras*, *ges* (*guess*), *fulnes*, &c.
t in *brunet*, *dépo*, *glisen*, *lisen*, *öfen*, *mörgag*, *bach* (*batch*), *lach*, &c.
w in *hoop* (*whoop*), *sord*.
z in *buz*, *fuz*, &c.
ch in *dram* (*drachm*), *siam*, *siamatic*.
ph and *th* in *tiazic* (*phthisic*), *ismus*, &c.
rh in *catarr* (*catarrh*), &c.
8. Omit *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, and *u* when silent, as in the words *seiv* (*seive*), *ferfit*, *counterfit*, *mullin*, *surfit*, &c.; *adiu*, *purliu*, *frend*, *plad*; *leopard*; *bild*, *gard*, *garantè*, *ges*, *gitar*, *biscuit*, *condit*, *çircuit*, *dant*, *lanch*, *stanch*, &c.
9. And change *eau* to *o* in *bo* (*beau*), *büro*, &c.

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BULLETIN

OF THE

SPELLING REFORM ASSOCIATION.

Secretary's Office, 32 Hawley Street, Boston.

No. 3.

OCTOBER.

1877.

SPELLING. — For the alphabet see page 12. New letters are used for old which are like them in form; silent e final and in inflections is dropped. Proper names and a few other words receive special treatment. See July Bulletin.

The minutes of Proceedings, which were omitted in the July Bulletin in order to give a full account of the reports on the alphabet, will be given in this Bulletin, and then the news.

The April Meeting.

33 Park Row, N.Y., Apr. 28.

Mrs. Burnes read a letter from Vice-president Jones, announcing the victory gained in the London School Board, that body having resolved, by a majority of twenty against three, to refer the question of spelling reform to a select committee.

Mr. Lindzey read several letters from prominent educators in the West, and a newspaper criticism, and called attention to the entire ignorance of the aims of the Association displayed in some recent articles. He thought little harm would be done by them on that account. The Secretary urged that they did great mischief, because they were read by those even more ignorant of the facts and who never saw the answers and, of course, got very false impressions. He instance a recent magazine in which a burlesque spelling in one of the newspaper reports of the August

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meeting was taken up and critically examined as the work of the Association. Its inconsistency was pointed out and made the main argument against the reform. Communications were presented, with extracts from the more important. Suggested methods submitted by various persons having raised the question, it was on motion voted that all communications, suggestions or plans pertaining to the new spellings be sent directly to the chairman of the committee, Prof. F. A. March, Easton, Pa., the Association to act on what was reported by the committee.

Mr. Parkhurst offered the following resolutions, which, after discussion, were referred to the Committee on New Spellings :—

Resolved, That we recommend to publishers of newspapers friendly to the spelling reform the adoption in such portions of their papers as they think best, of the plan adopted by Prof. March in his opening address, viz., the introduction of modified letters with invariable signification in the place of the corresponding Roman letters, the spelling remaining unchanged. When the reading public shall have become familiar with the appearance and signification of these new letters, it will be comparatively easy to adopt a fonetic alphabet and spelling.

2. We do not consider it essential that publications shall adopt the whole or any considerable part of the new letters, but regard the adoption even of one as so much progress in the right direction.

Mr. Parkhurst also offered resolutions embodying valuable directions to compositors in setting up new type.

Moved by Mrs. Burns, and adopted.

Resolved, That we recommend that an especial appeal be made to authors to examine into the merits of the spelling reform, that they may be induced to request their publishers to have their books printed in revised spelling.

A series of resolutions was adopted on the recent death of R. B. Taylor, editor of the Wyandotte (Kansas) Gazette, and for many years one of the most active workers in the cause of spelling reform.

In order to make it possible to transact business in the inter-

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vals between the quarterly meetings, by-law 12 was adopted, as follows:—

12. Such resolutions as may receive by correspondence the unanimous vote of the president, the vice-presidents, the secretary, and the treasurer, shall go upon the records as the vote of the Board.

It was voted that we request the publishers' permission to use for the Bulletin extracts from the books of leading philologists endorsing the reform.

After discussion of the valuable service done to the cause by the "N.E. Journal of Education," it was unanimously voted that its offer of space for a Spelling Reform Department under the charge of the Association be accepted, and that it be made the official journal of the Association.

Mr. J. A. Völker then read an essay on the spelling reform, and after its discussion the meeting adjourned.

MELVIL DEWEY, *Secretary*.

The July Meeting.

The Spelling Reform Association met at 9 o'clock, A.M., July 13, 1877, in the Hall of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., according to notice.

At the request of the President, Prof. March, Vice-president Prof. S. S. Haldeman, of the University of Pennsylvania, took the chair.

In the absence of Secretary Dewey, Prof. Barlow, of Lafayette College, was chosen secretary *pro tem*. The chairman called for the report of the Committee on New Spellings, Prof. March, chairman. It was read by Prof. W. D. Whitney, of Yale College, and was adopted; and the committee was continued. This report was a final report on the various schemes of new letters and new spellings which had been referred to the committee, and reported as final various changes in orthography for general use, and for the publications of the Association. It included the action of the Philological Association, and is given in full in the July Bulletin.

The old board of officers was re-elected, except that the resignation of Rev. D. P. Lindzey having been offered and accepted, Prof. E. H. Barlow was chosen Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary.

After some remarks by Prof. Haldeman and others upon the importance of the movement, Prof. Webster, of Norfolk, Va., urged the necessity of doing something by committee or otherwise, in the way of preparing some primary books for school use. The chairman stated that this was in the hands of the Executive Committee. He also called attention to the importance of organizing branch associations.

The thanks of the Association were tendered to the Johns Hopkins University for the use of their hall. Adjourned.

E. HUBBARD BARLOW,

Secretary pro tem.

October Meeting.

33 Park Row, N.Y., Oct. 30, 1877.

Mr. Parkhurst was called to the chair, Mr. J. M. McKinley, Secretary *pro tem.*

Letters were read by the Corresponding Secretary, Prof. Barlow, and others.

Moved by Mrs. Burns, and adopted:

Resolved, That we recommend the friends of Spelling Reform to prepare short articles on interesting subjects, in any method of revised spelling they may prefer, and obtain the insertion of such articles in their local and other papers, for the purpose of awakening interest in the reform, and accustoming readers to fonetic print; and that we recommend the use, as far as practicable, of the system adopted by the Association at Baltimore.

Mrs. D. L. Scott Brown addressed the meeting in regard, especially, to the introduction, into Brown's Fonographic Journal, of new types, and articles in partially fonetic spelling.

Moved by Mr. Lindzey, and adopted:

Resolved, That all members of branch associations shall be

held to be members of the Spelling Reform Association, and shall each pay an annual assessment of one dollar.

Movd by Prof. Barlow, and adopted :

Resolvd, That we request the Executiv Board to devise and put in its additional methods of securing increase membership.

May 12, 1877, Mr. H. M. Parkhurst and Mrs. E. B. Burna completed their printed report of specimens of the different alphabets and mode of spelling suggested to the International Convention at Philadelphia, and copies of it have been submitted to the American Philological Association. It contains twenty-six phonotypic specimens, illustrating ten or more alphabets, and using types from fourteen foundries. Taken in connection with the explanatory details given in reports of the same committee to the Spelling Reform Association, dated Sept. 12 and Dec. 2, 1876, it affords a very full view of the present state of the matter, and is an exceedingly valuable document.

The East.

STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

At the annual meeting of the State Teachers' Association, held in Plattsburg, N.Y., in July last, a paper was read upon the subject of spelling reform by the Treasurer of the Spelling Reform Association, Prof. Barlow, at the request of Pres. Smith.

It was found that a very important and intense interest was developed among the teachers, many of whom had long thought upon the subject, and all of whom were gratified that so important and decided a step had been taken as the report of an alphabet by the Association.

Several members were added to the Association, and a committee, consisting of Professors J. E. Bradley, of Albany, James Johennet, of Ithaca, Chas. Chatfield, of Rye, Dr. J. W. Meara, of Hamilton College, and J. Derman Steele, of Elmira, was chosen to ask the Legislature of New York to appoint a commission to inquire into the proposed reform, look-

ing towards its adoption in public documents, and its use in public schools.

This committee is expected to take action during the coming session of the Legislature, and to report at the next meeting of the Teachers' Association in July, 1878.

They have the cordial support of the most earnest teachers of this large and influential state, one of whom writes that he "finds teachers, without exception, in favor of the reform," and that he believes it to be "the most important educational movement of the century."

The subject of branch associations was discussed, and it is hoped that much local interest will in this way be excited and fostered.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE OCTOBER MEETING.

Prof. Edward A. H. Allen, of Sherborn, Mass., expresses a growing interest in the subject as connected with the art of teaching to read. Children welcome a phonetic method, and teachers are ready to adopt a rational system as soon as one can be agreed upon by the leaders in this movement. What is needed is actual work among the young, freedmen or foreigners. Such a tangible argument will convince thousands who cannot be reached by the most logical pleas. They need, then, first, a suitable alphabet; second, a school primer; third, a suitable trial of it by school authorities and teachers who believe in this method of carrying out the reform. Prof. Allen presented an alphabet at the annual meeting of the Middlesex County Teachers' Association as part of a report on alphabetic reform, and he sends a copy of it to the Association for criticism. It has been printed in the New England Journal of Education (May 3, 1877). Prof. Allen adds that the sentiment in his vicinity would be averse to Ellis' Glossic, or other digraphic schemes; but would much more readily accept a purely phonetic alphabet, — for school purposes, — and this once firmly established in schools would slowly but surely work its way into general use.

This call for elementary books — primers, readers, and writ-

ing-books — is repeated by Miss M. J. Smith, of Monticello, Iowa, for the teachers of that vicinity.

Rev. J. Colver Wightman, of Taunton, Mass., writes that they have had a lecture in Taunton, and distribution of documents, and that "spelling by the sounds" has been introduced into all the primary schools. He thinks that the first innovation should be the use of simple characters instead of the digraphs. 1. They present the easiest approach to a right system. 2. They escape the appearance of illiteracy. 3. They are labor-saving; diacritic marks can never be popular among Americans. 4. They are economic for printers and publishers. 5. They can be introduced into schools as an aid to teachers where no innovations on the established orthography would be tolerated.

In Taunton the reform is rapidly progressing, and there is no opposition.

The North-west.

In the month of August, 1877, at Chicago, Illinois, the Adams, Blackmer, and Lyon Publishing Company, O. C. Blackmer, President, began to introduce the alphabet of the Spelling Reform Association into their widely circulated periodical, "The Little Folks."

In the numbers of the first and second weeks of August *e* was used: in those of the third and fourth weeks *u* was added; in the September numbers *i* and *o*; and in the October, *a*, *q*, *ç*, and *ü*. These letters are used in place of the Roman letters which they resemble in form, and the spelling is left unchanged. The publishers have heard no complaints.

The South-west.

Mr. T. R. Vickrey, of 1117 North 25th street, St. Louis, writes to the October meeting that he completed the invention

of a fonetic alfabet in Dêçember, 1876, had a fent for it ready early in Jûne, 1877; read a paper on it befor thê Soçiety of Pedagogy; publisht it in “Thê Western” and in pamphlet; and haz sinç publisht many lik artiçlê in papera and magazin, — eight or ten of one to two cêlumnz in thê “St. Louis Daily Times,” two of two cêlumnz in thê “American Journal of Edûication,” in thê “Edûicational Wêekly,” of Chicago, and in thê “Printera Çircûlar;” hê haz also had his alfabet, with Leng-fellow’a “Psalms of Lif” put into eighty country paperz; hê haz also approacht a larg number of personz both by letterz and personal interviewz, and interested them on this subject; hê haz also publisht a fonetic primer, and “invented” script formz to go with his alfabet. Hê suggests thê organîzing of a branch in St. Louis, and holding thê Janiuary mêtting ther.

England.

FIRST RESPONSE FROM THE OLD COUNTRY.

[“*The Academy*,” London, for Sept. 8, 1877.]

In an artiçl on thê Nînth Annûal Session of thê American Philological Association, held at Baltimore, Prof. Haldeman prezîding, “Thê Academy” seya:—

“Thê interest of thê session, however, chiefly çenterd round Prof. March’a report on Spelling Reform. Thê Cômmitte appointed to consider thê question hav now arrîvd at practical results. Thê retention of thê Roman letterz iz advocatêd, thê differenc between vowelz bëing indicatêd by diacritical marks, and thê alfabet bëing thus incrêast to thirty-two letterz. Of thêz, twenty-two would prezerv thêir prezênt form and power; but thrê nêw characterz ar nêeded to express thê vowelz in *fat*, *not*, and *but*, and thê ùs of digrafts iz considerd objectionabl. As ther would bê a transition-pêriod between thê discontinuanc of thê old system of spelling and thê general adeption of thê nêw, it iz suggestêd that (1) transition-letterz should bê ùzêd, rezêmbli, if possibl, two letterz; (2) digrafts now representing singl soundz should bê namd and ùzêd as singl letterz; (3) thê nêw letterz should rezêmbli thê old as far as may bê; and (4) lêng wordz and vowelz should bê regardêd as bearing chang best.”

In conjunction with this report, a Bulletin of the Spelling Reform Association has appeared, published last April, containing an able address by the vice-president, Prof. Haldeman. In it he remarks that:—

“As a whole, English spelling has never been permanent, and innovators have been constantly met by protestors. In England the exclusive right to publish Bibles was given to Oxford; and when ameliorations began to appear at the Oxford press, a strong and learned protest was issued at London, in 1682—an anonymous pamphlet of ten pages, entitled ‘Friendly Advice to the Corrector of the English Press at Oxford Concerning English orthographie.’ The learned author sets the argument in a strong light, yet most of the innovations objected to have been adopted even by the objectors of to-day.”

It is satisfactory to find the matter so energetically taken up and supported by the leading philologists and educationalists of America, and we can have little doubt that their efforts will eventually end in success. It may be mentioned that a large publishing firm in Chicago has offered to cast the new letters recommended by the Spelling Reform Committee, and use them at once in all their publications.

The London Conference.

The statesmen of England undertook to educate the people when they gave them the right of voting a few years ago. The highest point attempted in the new schools was that the pupil should be able to read with tolerable ease and expression a passage from a newspaper, and spell the same with tolerable accuracy. They turn out about 200,000 annually who have been through the course. Ninety per cent of these leave without reaching the standard just mentioned. There are five grades lower. Eighty per cent fall short of the fifth grade, and sixty per cent fall short of the fourth. The bulk of the children therefore pass through the government schools without learning to read and spell tolerably. It is calculated that the country pays for this annually £3,500,000. The time and money which were to have educated the new masters of England are wasted in a vain attempt to teach them to read and spell. It is fully recognized that the trouble lies in the irregular and unreasonable spelling of English. Welsh boys pick up Welsh, and German boys German, without formal teaching of spelling. They read right off as soon as they learn their letters. How to remove this difficulty, how to reform English spelling, is getting to be fully recognized in England as a great problem of social science and of states-

manship. Members of Parliament and dignitaries of the universities give it anxious thought. In 1876, the National Union of Elementary Teachers, representing some ten thousand teachers in England and Wales, passed almost unanimously a motion in favor of a Royal Commission to inquire into the subject of English Spelling with a view to reforming and simplifying it. The School Board for London took up the matter and issued a circular asking others to unite in an address to the Education Department in favor of it. The Liverpool and Bradford Boards had acted before and more than 100 other Boards returned favorable replies.

Tuesday, May 29, 1877, a conference was held in London, at which the Rev. A. H. Sayce, Professor of Philology, Oxford, presided, and in which the President of the Philological Society, H. Sweet, Esq., the Vice-President, J. H. Murray, LL.D., and ex-Presidents took part, as well as numerous dignitaries of church and state, leading schoolmasters and eminent reformers, including Mr. Pitman and Mr. Ellis. They spent a day and evening in harmonious discussion, and in listening to short addresses, and adopted a vigorous series of resolutions, which they appointed a committee to present to the Department of Education. The Convention was a great success, and called forth serious articles in the London Times, followed of course, when not preceded, by articles in the whole periodical press of Great Britain. A pretty full report is published as a pamphlet by F. Pitman, 20 Paternoster Row, E. C., London.

The most striking feature of the addresses is the frequent reference to America.

The opening address says:

"Our best hope comes from America. There are too classes in America interested in the cause of Spelling Reform, both of whom have considerable influence in the country. One of these consists of men like Professor Whitney and other members of the Philological Association, who have great wealth with the educated portion of the countrymen; the other class consists of the Germans settled in America, who complain of the time and energy wasted by their children in learning to read English."

Rev. Dr. R. Morris, who presided at the evening session, made up his address largely of quotations from Prof. Whitney and other American authors whom he did not name, but whom our spelling reformers will readily recognize, Prof. Haldeman, Wightman, and the rest.

Sir Charles Reed, LL.D., Chairman of the School Board for

London, author of the report to Parliament on the Educational Exhibits in the Philadelphia Exhibition, 1876, occupied most of his very able address with an account of the improved mode of teaching reading in America, especially of Dr. Leigh's system, in favor of which he gave a great body of evidence.

Mr. Ellis also referred to Dr. Leigh, and the energetic Vice-president of our Spelling Reform Association, Mr. Jones, who was the Hon. Sec. and manager of the Conference, tho he does not seem to have talked much about us, doubtless kept up a great thinking. The pamphlet has a further note on the progress of the reform in America.

There was no discussion of fonetic systems. The letters read express different opinions about the new alphabet. The liveliest is from Robert Lowe, M.P. Max Müller had asked, "Is there no statesman in England sufficiently proof against ridicule to call this attempt on Parliament to halt is a growing national misfortune?"

Mr. Lowe writes, (we give such spelling as he comes out for),

"I am not afraid of ridicule, and I have a strong opinion on the spelling question. I cannot be present at your meeting, but you are welcome to my opinion. There are, I am informed, 39 sounds in the English language. There are 24 letters. I think that each letter should represent one sound, that 15 new letters should be added, so that there be a letter for every sound, and that every word should run as he speaks. I have been in the habit for many years of taking pains to read to me. I always take them from the sixth standard. They are unable to read aloud tolerably, and have no idea of the pronunciation of the language. The only remedy for this, in my opinion, is to teach all the 39 sounds, together with the letter which represents each of them."

The Bishop of Exeter was of a different opinion. He wrote in common spelling as follows, if it may be permitted to transliterate into the most familiar alphabet of the kind which the Bishop approves (Mr. Jones's), applying it regularly, without attempting to conform to Mr. Jones's exceptions:

"Thair are too becomme new characteristics, and only they introduce of a few diacritical marks."

The reading of Mr. Lowe's letter was greeted with much applause.

The Alfabet of the Spelling Reform Association.

Letters in () or duplicats, thoꝛ in [] ar illustrations not belonging to the alfabet. In popular print only the vowels her givn as short and a, è ar to be üad. Short vowels prevail in unaccented syllablz. The simplest changes ar (1) to üa new letters for old which ar lik them, (2) to drop final silent e.

Vowels.

Short.	Long.
i..it.	ī = (è) ..poliç, hè.
e..met.	ē = (a) ..thēy, potato, fare.
a..at.	ā ..fāre (in America).
ɑ..ask (sè Dictionariā).	ā ..fār.
œ..net, what.	ō ..nōr, wall.
o..wholly (in New England).	ō ..nō, hōly.
u..but.	ū ..būrñ.
u..full.	ū ..rūle, fool.

Difthengz: ĭ = ai..lijon; au = ou..stout; øi..oil; ʏ, ü = (yu, iu) ünits, müzic.

Censonants.

Surd.	Sonant.
p..pet.	b..bet.
t..til.	d..did.
ch [ç] = tsh..church.	j (q) = dzh..jet, gem.
c (=k=q) ..cat, cwit (quit).	g..get.
f..fit, filosofer.	v..vat.
th [p, b] ..thin, author, liveth.	dh, th [ð, ð] ..then, other, with.
s = (ç) ..so, çent.	z (z) ..az.
sh [ʃ, ʃ] ..shè.	zh [ʒ] ..azhur.
wh..which (in England).	w..wè.
h..hè.	l..lo; r..rat; y..yè; m..mè.
	n..no; ng [ŋ] ..king, iŋk.

Syllabic: l..nobl, nobl; m..spazm, spazm; n..tokn, tokn.

Note specially any marked paragraph.

MEMBERSHIP

IN THE

SPELLING REFORM ASSOCIATION.

In answer to frequent inquiries, for reference of members, and to call attention where needed information is not given with applications.

Eligibility. — Any person, firm, organization, or periodical sympathizing with our object, — the simplification of English orthography, — may, on application with required fee, be enrolled on the list of members, and entitled to all the rights and privileges, the election being subject to ratification at the next meeting of the Executive Board. There are no qualifications of age or residence.

Privileges. — In addition to the ordinary rights of voting on all questions, and attendance at all meetings, public or private, each member will receive from time to time, suggestions for work in his own section, reports of experience in other places, and other matter of practical value. In attending meetings and conventions, members only have the privilege of reduced rates. Members also receive, without charge, and as fast as issued, one copy of each number of the Bulletin of the Association. This contains everything of special interest to friends of the reform, and is essential to all actively interested, as it groups together suggestions and information from all sections of the world. Each issue contains 16 pages, closely printed. Those not members pay \$1.00 per year, which is less than cost.

Duties. — There are no required duties, but each member is supposed to feel an added interest in the work that will lead him to do all he can to advance it. We expect any information or suggestion of service to other workers to be sent promptly to the secretary, to be combined with similar matter from other sources, and be briefed for the official Bulletin. The more active the coöperation, the better; but those who sympathize with the work, but are unable to give any time or actual service, should all the more contribute the influence of their names and their slight annual fee, with such additional pecuniary support as they are able to give.

Expense. — There is no fee for joining, but each member pays each year \$1.00 towards expenses. The main dependence for support is on life memberships (\$25.00), and on gifts. All who can, are urged to make such gifts, and to take the memberships, which free from annual assessments. As the interest on the \$25.00 is less than the annual fee, some prefer thus to pay in advance. Such payments are doubly valuable to the

Association. It is hoped that receipts from these sources will keep the required assessment very low, the design being to avoid pecuniary objections to membership.

Workers. — Some of our members have become such to show their interest and their willingness to pay a share of the necessary expenses, but are so situated that, personally, they do no work. We cannot afford to waste a single cent in postage or printing. We wish to make every item tell, and printed matter will be sent only to those who specially wish it.

A list has been opened, headed "WORKERS." To each person on that list will be sent, as fast as issued, one or more copies of each circular, placard, cheap chart, or other publication intended to be posted in prominent places, or given to develop interest. Those who request it, members or others, are enrolled as WORKERS, if they agree that all matter sent to them will receive their personal attention, and be put where it will do the most good; if a broadside, will be posted in a conspicuous place; if a circular, will be given to one likely to read and be interested; if a suggestion for work, will be read with attention, heeded if practicable, and at all events will not be wasted.

Matter sent is without charge, and any person, member or not, may be a WORKER without paying a cent.

We hope this list of workers will fill up rapidly, and our membership will be very largely represented. Requests should be, in substance, "I wish to be on the list of workers. Matter sent to me will do its full work, and none will be wasted."

A small package of documents will be mailed each applicant.

How to Join. — Send your name, full P.O. address, position, occupation, or any titles or degrees, that should appear for identification in a full list of members, and your fee for the current year (\$1). Your official certificate, entitling to all the rights and privileges of membership, will be returned. WORKERS sign a special application and receive a special certificate.

The Association year corresponds with the calendar. Assessments are due at the beginning of the year, and should be paid as early as convenient after January 1. While the fee for the current year properly accompanies applications, *never defer enrolment*. If not convenient to send the fee with the name send it later. Bulletins will be sent at once on enrolment.

The method of joining, eligibility, expenses, and duties have been so fixed that there is no excuse for withholding membership except indifference to the work. We therefore confidently hope for acceptance from all those to whom this invitation is sent.

MELVIL DEWEY, *Secretary.*

At the International Convention a committee (President March, Vice-President Haldeman, and Secretary Dewey) were appointed to prepare, for the use of the members and others interested, note, letter, envelope, and card headings, which should attract favorable attention, and free the writer from any suspicion of bad spelling. Satisfactory headings could not be made until the American Philological and the Spelling Reform Association had adopted a complete scheme for the changes.

Now that this scheme is in print, the headings are offered, and urged for the largest possible use. Their influence has been proved most powerful, reaching and interesting people of all classes. Every friend can thus, without expense, do most valuable service to the cause. Prominent literary and business men have already adopted it, and made the way clear for those timid reformers who "fear it will be thought strange."

The price is made low by buying at the mill at jobbers prices, and printing before cutting up, and still a small profit is left the Association. Special inducements will be offered to those using large quantities, or buying to give away or sell again.

Any special sizes, qualities, or printings, at low rates, as manufacturers and printers interested in the reform have offered large inducements to use this stationery.

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BULLETIN

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SPELLING REFORM ASSOCIATION.

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No. 4.

JANUARY.

1878.

SPELLING. — For the alphabet see page 14. New letters are used for old which are like them in form; silent e final and in inflections is dropped. Proper names and a few other words receive special treatment. See July Bulletin.

The January Meeting.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 17, 1878.

The fifth quarterly meeting convened at the session room of the board of public schools. John E. Kimball was elected Chairman, and T. R. Vickroy, Secretary. The opening address was delivered by Vice-President Professor Wm. T. Harris, LL.D., Superintendent of Schools in the city of St. Louis. He began by discussing the causes of the condition of our country so inauspicious to reforms for the purpose of realizing ideals, and continued as follows:—

And so it is, my friends, who have met here to express your interest in the spelling reform, that I have opened my address on this important theme by saying that we have come together at an inauspicious time for progressive reform. And so much the more I congratulate you upon your bravery, which, undaunted by the downward rolling wheels of the car of time and undismayed by the chilly aspect of the civil and political stars now in the ascendant—has led you to come here and take part in these discussions upon a theme remote indeed from immediate food, clothing

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and shelter for ourselves and our fellow-citizens, but fraught with great possibilities of good for all who shall read and write the English language in future time. I heartily join you in a bold defiance of all baleful external influences. We will assert our unwavering faith in a good cause, even if our social and political atmosphere is darkened with sterility. When we look over large spaces of time we shall be reassured by the sight of real solid progress, which goes on under seeming retrogression. We are really nearer the possibility of a millennium of the settlement of national disputes by arbitration than we were in 1860.

Let us first of all address ourselves to the task of defining the evil which we are attempting to reform, and let us endeavor to make clear to ourselves the scope and significance of the movement of which this meeting is a manifestation.

The irregularities in English orthography are, as is well known, the cause of a wide departure on the part of our elementary education from what is in other countries where English is not spoken. In Germany or Italy the child can correctly spell any word he hears, or pronounce any word he sees, after he becomes familiar with the powers of the letters of his alphabet. Hence the foreigner spends a very small portion of time in learning his own language, while, if he would learn to spell our English language correctly, he must give years of study to it. And what is worst of all, this study is only an exercise of the memory and not a cultivation of the reason or of the power to think. There are few general principles or suggestive analogies to lighten the burden.

The American child must spend a large portion of his school days learning, one by one, the peculiar combinations of the written words of his language.

The Chinese have something similar in their education, but far worse. Their written language is imprisoned in a system of time-honored characters, each of which represents an entire word, or rather a related family of words. These characters have to be mastered by the inhabitant of China who would learn to write, by an effort of memory far more formidable than that undertaken by the English child. The effect of this alphabet (if such it may be called) upon the character of the Chinese is what should be expected. Of all races, the Chinese is the most prescriptive, the most given to following the beaten track marked out for him by his ancestors. That alphabet is of a piece with the Mongolian civilization, and furnishes a sort of iron mold which reacts upon the people — forcing them when young and plastic into prescriptive habits — obedience to external authority — compelling each one to rely upon his memory, and to seek his guiding principle in something external. He begins his study of reading and writing by

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memorizing the shape of a complex sign for a word — perhaps like the drawing of a house, with its doors and windows in outline — and another sign equally complex for the second word, and so on until he has memorized several thousand of these characters before he can graduate as a scribe. He very naturally becomes a copyist in everything he does. The hand of Confucius reaching down through twenty-five centuries holds him firmly in the prescribed path.

The resemblance of the Anglo-Saxon to the Chinese extends beyond the matter of alphabets and mode of spelling, and affects character and habits, although in a faint degree. That the Anglo-Saxon has been the most successful of all modern peoples in working out the legal forms of civil and political freedom is no accidental circumstance in his history, but one that dwells in the inmost substance of his nature, and appears and reappears in his social and individual life, and in the means and appliances of his arts and usages. The English people, like the ancient Romans, are a will people rather than a people of intellect — they are practical rather than theoretical. The intellect amuses itself by the creation of ideas, and incessantly modifies these into others, and follows a dialectic series. The will, on the other hand, works in forms prescribed, or according to "precedent." What has been found a safe course of action is taken as a guide for the future. Respect for idiomatic peculiarities belongs to the same habit of mind.

Rome, the ancient law-maker for the world, molded her conquered provinces by the imposition of the forms of her will — by her equal laws. At Rome, the Pantheon rose as the architectural symbol of Roman dominion; the arch, in which each stone is supported by all the rest, and, in turn, is itself a means of support to the rest — each stone gaining its own individuality by respecting that of its neighbor — the arch is rounded into a dome in the Pantheon, which sheltered the gods of all peoples. Like the dome of the sky, which covers indifferently all peoples and whose rain and whose sunshine descend alike upon the just and the unjust, so the Roman power extended over its provinces its equal laws.

It is not accidental that the prescriptive spirit which makes the Englishman the tip of idiosyncrasy to Continental Europeans, causes him to preserve an orthography full of original peculiarities, each word to some extent bringing the history of its individual fortune with it.

The charter of freedom, of equality before the law, and profound respect for individual rights, extends so far as to tolerate inconsistency and even absurdity. Thus broad and generous

principle end, strandly enough, with the preservation and encouragement of what is narrow and peculiar.

“The Constitution of England,” as remarks a philosophic historian, “is a complex of many particular rights and special privileges. Hence the British Government is essentially administrative, that is, conservative of the interests of all particular orders and classes; and each particular Church, parochial district, county, society, takes care of itself, so that the Government, strictly speaking, has nowhere less to do than in England. This is the leading feature of what Englishmen call their liberty, and is the very antithesis of such a centralized Administration as exists in France, where, down to the least village, the *Maire* is named by the Ministry or other agents. Nowhere can people tolerate free action on the part of others less than in France. Then the Ministry combines in itself all administrative powers, although the Chamber of Deputies also lays claim to them. In England, on the contrary, every parish, every subordinate division and association has a part of its own to perform. Thus the common interest is participated in by all, and particular interests are all regulated so as to harmonize with the common interest. These arrangements, based on particular interests, render a general system of administration from a centralized head impossible.

As a consequence of this organized system of preservation and protection of what is particular and pertains to individual rights, we find among Anglo-Saxon people the lingering relics of very many customs and usages that utterly contravene what is just and reasonable. “The rights of primogeniture necessitating the purchasing of military or ecclesiastical appointments for the younger sons of the aristocracy” is an example in point. And more especially of interest to us here to-day is the heritage of a mode of spelling which is as full of idiosyncrasies and efficient protection against the sway of general rational rules as is the system of special laws which protects the British citizen in his individual and social “privileges.”

Let us look more closely into this alphabet and system of spelling.

Mr. Latham, in his work on “The English Language,” lays down the following six rules for a perfect alphabet and a perfect orthography:

1. That for every simple single sound, incapable of being represented by a combination of letters, there be a single sign.

2. That sounds within a determined degree of likeness be represented by signs within a determined degree of likeness; whilst sounds beyond a certain degree of likeness be represented by distinct and different signs, and that uniformly.

3. That no sound hav mor than one sign to express it.
4. That only one sound shall bẽ expresd by one sign.
5. That thẽ primary aim ẽf ẽrthẽgrafy bẽ to express thẽ soundz ẽf wordz, and net thẽir historiz.
6. That changẽz ẽf spẽech bẽ followd by cõrresponding changẽz ẽf spelling.

Bearing thẽz lawz in mind, let us examin fẽr a moment thẽ English langguag az writn.

Thẽ Romanic ẽr cõmmon alfabet consists ẽf 26 letterz, which ar supposd to reprẽzent, singly ẽr cõmbĩnd, all the soundz in thẽ English langguag — 21 cõsonants and 5 vowelz. But thẽr ar in thẽ English langguag, az spokn, 12 vowelz, 4 difthõngz, 22 cõsonants — 34 in all, exclũsiv ẽf difthõngz. Then thẽ Romanic alfabet must vjõlet Latham's fourth law, that "only one sound shall bẽ exprest by one sign." Yes, az Mr. Ellis haz shown in hiz tablz appended to thẽ "Plẽa fẽr Fonetic Spelling," thẽ letter "a" haz 7 soundz, "e" haz also 7, "i" haz 6, "o" haz 11, "u" haz 8, and "y," az a vowel, haz 3; an averag ẽf 7 soundz to ẽach ẽf thẽz simpl signz. But this would net bẽ bad wer it *all*. Thẽ third law ẽf Latham, that "no sound hav mor than one sign" iz disregarded ẽvn mor flagrantly. Thẽ vowel sound ẽf ẽ, heard in "mẽet," iz reprẽented by no fẽwer than 40 different signz and cõmbinationz ẽf signz; a, az heard in "mẽte," by 34; o, in "mote," by 34 also.

In shẽrt, if wẽ view thẽ alfabet in this light, it cõsists net ẽf twenty-six letterz only, but ẽf mor than 200!

Az Chamberz remarks, in hiz "Pepẽra fẽr thẽ Pẽopl," "wẽ vjõlet every princĩpl ẽf a sound alfabetical system mor out-ragously than any nation whatsoever. Our spelling can net bẽ mached fẽr whimazical capric. If 'myrrh' bẽ *mir*, why net 'syrrh,' *sir*; 'through,' *throo*; 'tough,' *to*; 'bough,' *bow*; 'cough,' *cow*; 'noise,' *boise* fẽr 'boys'; 'tongue,' *hongue* fẽr 'hung'; 'quay,' *may* fẽr 'me'; 'colonel,' *infolonel* fẽr 'infernal'; 'neighbor,' *leighbor* fẽr 'labor'?"

Thẽ word "scissors," it haz bẽen mathematically dẽmõstrated, can bẽ speld 596,580 different modz, and hav Romanic analogiz to authoriz ẽach spelling! Som ar extravagant, az *schies-sourrhce*, justifiđ by *schism*, *sieve*, *scissor*, *honour*, *myrrh*, and *sacrifice*.

Shẽkspẽr mĩt bẽ speld Schaighkespeighrrhe. Sheridan, thẽ author ẽf an English pronouncĩng dictionary, sayz: "Such iz thẽ stat ẽf our writn langguag, that thẽ darkest hĩeroglifics, ẽr most difficult cĩfẽr z that thẽ art ẽf mẽn haz inventẽd wer net better calculatẽd to cõncẽal thẽ sentiments ẽf thõz who ĩzẽd

them, from those who had not the key, than the state of our spelling is to conceal the true pronunciation of our words from all except a few well-educated natives." And Walker, in the preface to his pronouncing dictionary, says: "The orthography and pronunciation differ so widely that Dr. Watts and Dr. Jones lay it down as a maxim in their treatises on spelling that all words which can be sounded different ways must be written according to that mode which is the most distant from the true pronunciation."

But, unfortunately, no rule whatever can be made — not even that rule. It is confidently asserted that there are not one hundred words in the whole English language that are spelled according to phonetic principles.

This makes it an effort to the memory to learn the spelling of each word separately, and the following are the results:

1. It stands in the way of a sound, comprehensive national education. Hence the prevalence of illiterates.

2. No one is certain how to pronounce a word he has only seen written and never heard spoken.

3. No one is sure how a word is spelled which he has only heard pronounced, and never seen written.

4. It throws a barrier in the way of all sound and accurate philological research.

As confirmation of these principles, in England and Wales (according to the *British Quarterly Review*), in 1846, nearly one-half the people were unable to write their names, and five millions unable to read their mother tongue. In fact, there are at least five years as good as thrown away learning the mass of heterogeneous conventionalities dignified by the name of orthography, (the Greek word *orthos* and *grapho*), correct writing (?). Heterography has been suggested as a word which would more aptly express it, i. e. various writing.

If the phonetic alphabet were adopted, these five years would be saved, and could be devoted to useful science.

There would also result a uniformity of pronunciation, because all people would write just as correctly as they speak, and we should have the pronunciation of the best authors daguerrotypified for us. Another very weighty consideration is this, the child who is just commencing his education should have something consistent and logical, methodical and philosophical, to employ his mind, rather than something without either analogy or system; for these first impressions have sometimes the power to change and fix the whole bent of the mind.

It has been demonstrated by actual experiment that children will learn to spell the English language far more correctly, and in

one-half the tim, by first learning to read in the fonetic way, which can be don in a few days.

Dr. Stone, of Boston, provd this several timz.

The fonetic printing can be read by any person who can read ordinary reading almost as readily at first sight as the other. Henç ther need be non of the books now in print thrown asid by reason of difficult orthograpy.

In this matter we of St. Louis can speak with positiv experienç. In the fall of 1866 the fonetic modification of the alfabet, as invented by Dr. Edward Leigh, was trid in one of our public schools as an experiment, and the following year it was adopted throughout the public schools of this city, wher it has ever since retained its place. By this system the child has a perfectly fonetic alfabet in so far as "one sound for each character" is concernd, altho it violates the third law of Latham in having mor than one character for the sem sound. Yet, evn with this, we find the following advantagez in the system, which is still in use with us after ten years:—

1. Gain in tim—a saving of one year out of the three years usually occüp'd in learning to call off easy words at sight.

2. Distinct articulation, the removal of foreign accent and of local and peculiar intonationz.

3. The development of logical power of mind in the pupil. He can safely be taught to analize a word into its sounds and to find the letters representing them, wheras, with the ordinary orthograpy it is an insult to his reason to assure him that a sound is represented by any particular letter. Henç, analytical power is trained instead of mere memory, from the day of his entrance into the school—and analytical power is the basis of all thinking activity.

As to the popular dread which lies under the proposed change of orthograpy, the introduction of a new language, ther would not be so much difference between fonetic print and that ordinarily used now as ther is between the English used now, and that of Spenser, and we can read him without much difficulty.

All foreign names, *e. g.*, geographical names, wud then be easily reduced to a correct pronunciation, and missionaries could easily reduce unwritten languages to writing, a thing which has been tried with a fonetic alfabet with eminent success.

The disuse of silent letters will reduce the bulk of books one-tenth part, and save in the item of books millions of dollars per annum.

The English language, being an eclectic—*i. e.*, having chosen the strongest and best parts of other languages—is moreover the simplest in grammatical construction of any known. Prof.

Grimm, the eminent German filologist, remarks; "Although the French language has for centuries been the common language of Europe in a diplomatic and social sense, yet it has never obtained a firm footing in large tracts of country beyond Europe.

"On the other hand, English may be considered the language of the world out of Europe, and this idiom (which, by a bold mixture of Gothic and Roman elements, and by a fusion of their grammatical forms, which this rendered necessary) has attained an incomparable degree of fluency, and appears destined by nature more than any other that exists to become the world's language. Did not a whimsical, antiquated orthography stand in the way, the universality of this language would be still more evident, and we other Europeans may esteem ourselves fortunate that the English nation has not made this discovery."

The German language, so well adapted to express metaphysical thought, and made so musical by a Goethe, still is lost in diversity of dialect, and can never become a universally adopted language, and scarcely even a national language.

Then the number of intelligent persons that one writes to is a consideration. As the Danish poet Oehlenschläger complains that who writes in Danish writes to two hundred readers. "In Germany," says Emerson, "there is one speech for the learned and another for the masses to that extent that it is said no sentiment or fear from the works of any great German author is ever heard among the lower classes; but the English language is at the same time the language of the noble and the serf, the rich and the poor."

Their language seems to be drawn from the Bible, the common law, and the works of Shakspeare, Bacon, Milton, Pope, Young, Cowper, Burns, and Scott. The Abbe Sicard says: Of all languages, the English is the most simple, the most rational, and the most natural in its construction. These peculiarities give it a philosophical character, and, as its terms are strong, expressive, and copious, no language seems better calculated to facilitate the intercourse of mankind as a universal medium of communication."

But the question of a universal language is for us an idle one. The era of cosmopolitan culture will gradually reduce all languages to one, not by exclusion, but by inclusion. A well-educated man finds help in expressing himself by words and idioms from a variety of languages. For each language has its special aptitudes of expression—the totality of thought, as it were, cut up into pieces by language, each piece being a word or an idiom. No two languages have covered exactly the same conceptions of thought by single words. What the German expresses by the

word "*von*" wē hav to express by "from" and "by." "*Zweck*" wē express by "end and aim," and by "final caus." Somtīma wē find a word in one language which has no equivalent expression in another, for the reason that it has not been thought by the writers of that language. Somtīma, too, a word in one language covers the provinç of a portion of several others in another language.

Henç the man of general cultūr finds ūs for all languages.

Ther ar thrē or four objections urgd against the fonetic movement, which wē wil consider befor wē cloz.

The first is, that if the fonetic alfabet wer adopted, all books new printed would bē valūless and illegibl. Wē hav already anticipated this argūment by asserting that ther is less difference between fonetic and Romanic now than ther is between the Romanic of now and that of Spenser.

The second objection urgd is this:

Thos who read now would hav the troubl of learning over agen. To this I reply, that it doz not tak ten minūts to read the fonetic system proposd if one can already read Romanic. It is objected that wē cannot distinguish between such words as "due," *dew*; "ale," *ail*; "awl," *all*; "bade," *bad*, etc.; but wē find no difficulty in conversation in distinguishing them by the context, and wē rarly should hav mor difficulty in reading them; whil another class of words, such as *read*, present tens, and *read*, past tens; *row*, and *row* (with an oar) will bē relieved of their present ambiguity.

Ther is another objection brought against the fonetic system, viz.: That it would so obscur the etymologia of words as to render it impossibl to distinguish them from the words speld fonetically. But the great filelogists depend upon fonetic analysis in their profound investigations into the primitiv stat of a language; and the filelogist knows that it would bē of exçeeding valū to know that a nation ūad a fonetic alfabet; for then one could immēdiatly determin the pronunçiation which gets lost as the nation changes.

If a fonetic basis had always been ūad, wē could tell now exactly how Shaksper pronouncd his living words, or how Chauçer read his "*Canterbury Tales*."

But suppos wē could not determin the etymology as well as befor? Or wē to consūm fiv yēars in the lif of every youth just to mak it easier for one scolar in a thousand men (ther ar hardly so many as that, evn), to sav him the troubl of consulting his copy of a dictionary? But ther is no basis of argūment hēr, for fonetypy restorē and revēals thrē analogia of language wher it obscurē one. Dr. Franklin, in 1767, favord the idēa of

a fonetic alfabet, and answerd all the objections very plainly in a letter to Miss Støvensen. He says:—

“The objecshun yu mak tu rectifyng our alfabet, ‘that it wil bē atended with incōvveniēciā and difficultiā,’ is a nachural wun, fōr it ēlwēs ēcurs hwen a reformashun is proposd, whethur in religiun, guvurnment, ēr lēs, ēvn daun tu rods and hwēl cariēz.

“The tru cweschun, then, is nōt hwethur ther wil bē nō difficultiā ēr incōvveniēciā, but hwethur the difficultiā mā nōt bē surmountēd, and hwethur the cōvveniēciā wil nōt, ēn the hol, bē gratur than the incōvveniēciā. In this cas the difficultiā or onli in the begining ēf the practiē. Hwen the ar wunē overcūm, the advantagez ar lasting. Tu ēthur yu ēr mē, hu spel wel in the prēzēt mod, I imagin the difficulti ēf changiēg that mod fōr the nū is nōt sō grāt but that wē mīt perfectli get ovur it in a wēk’s rītiēg. As tu thōz hu du nōt spel wel, if the tu difficultiā ar cōmpard,—viz., that ēf tēchiēg them the nū alfabet, and the nū speliēg acōrdiēg tu it—I am cōfident the later wud bē fōr the bēst. The nachurali fēl intū the nū method ēlredi as much as the impurfecshunz ēf ther alfabet wil admit ēf; ther prēzēt bad speliēg is onli bad becōz cōntrary tu prēzēt bad rulz; undur nū rulz it wud bē gud. The difficulti ēf lurniēg tu spel wel in the old wē is sō grāt that fū atēn it, thauzandz and thauzandz rītiēg ēn tu old, old ēg without ēvur bēiēg abl tu acquir it.”

The ōrigin ēf the prēzēt Asōciatiō is dū to that respectabl bōdy, the American Philolōgical Asōciatiō.

Nōt willing to rēcōmmēd and support such swēepiēg changez as the fonetiēciāz ēf thirty yēarz ago rēcōmmēdēd and supported to nō purpos, they hav adōptēd a rēpōrt settiēg fōrth ērtain sliēht mōdificatiōnz, which māy bē adōptēd without incurriēg any ēf the ōbjeēctiōnz ūzually mēd, whil they cōvēr all ēf the ēssēntial advantagez.

The cōmittē to whom waz intrusted the selectiō and rēcōmmēdatiōnz ēf mōdificatiōnz in letterz and ōrthōgrāfy cōnsistēd ēf Messrs. F. A. March (ōne ēf the lēadiēg Anglo-Saxon scōlarz ēf the wōrld today, who haz appliēd Bopp’s method and principlz to our parent tung), W. D. Whitney (well known in bōth hemisfērz as the grēat cōmparatiē filōlogist and Sanskrit scōlar), and S. S. Haldeman (lēng distiēguisht as cōmparatiē filōlogist and investigatōr ēf our Indian languagez).

Whil, in our discussiōnz hēr wē shall prōfit mōst by the prēzēntatiō ēf ōriginal systems ēf rēachiēg a fonetic alfabet (fōr

wë hav with us thë authorz of two noteworthis attempts to reach this basis), it is clear, as a principl, that no succëss will accrü to our movment until ther is üinity and harmony among our spelling refermerz as to just what steps ar to bë takn first. Ther must bë a sacrific of individüal viewz in order to achiev one solid succëss. It is very çertain, too, that thë first step must bë a short and ëazy one. When wë hav succëded onç in getting a singl modification adoptëd, thë iç is brokn, and the remaining steps to a fonetic alfabet ar ëazy enough.

Within thë last çentüry thë Spanish and thë Netherlanderz hav alterd their orthëgrafy, thë former reachng a fonetic basis by their modifications.

Now that our filelogists hav started this question, our collegez and üniversitiz will fellow thë lead, and it çertainly will not bë impossibl for thë higher institütions of edücation in this country to modify our orthëgrafy within a few yearz.

Mr. T. Vickroy read an address upen "An improv'd English Alfabet," in which hë set forth thë principls of thë Reports on that subject by thë committëz of thë American Philolegical and thë Spelling Reform Assoçiacion, and illustratëd them by an alfabet of hiz own invention, in harmony with thëz principls. Hiz characterz rezembl thoz recommended by thë committëz in all essential particülarz, but ar mor ingënious and elaborat, so that, although thë differenç is not very markt in many of thë characterz, thë effect of a paragraf is quit unlik. Thë alfabet haz bëen printëd in thë Journal of Edücation and the St. Louis newzpapërz. It waz referd to in our October Bulletin. Mr. J. S. Stëphenson prësentëd a paper on "A Diacritical Modificacion of thë Old Alfabet," which attractëd favorabl attention.

Thë last session waz devotëd mostly to a discussion of thë best cours to introduç improv'd spelling. Mr. Løngley, of Çinçinnati mad an address on that subject. Thë only fëazibl plan, hë thought, is to spend money, publish works in thë alfabet, and scatter them about thë land. An enerjetic publisher, with ëven but littl money, can do mor in molding thë languagë than thëoretic assoçiacionz, or than Cengress. Hë thought thë Americanz should adept Isaac Pitman's system. This led to a çeneral expression of opinion, and to extendëd remarks by Mr. Vickroy and Mr. Harris in favor of fellowng thë lead of "thë formost filelogists and scolarz of thë Ünited Stats;" and, finally, thë fellowng rezolütion waz past almost ünanimously:—

"Rezolv'd, that this convention indorsea thë plan of spelling

reform recommended by the American Philological Association and the National Spelling Reform Association."

The Convention finally formed itself into a permanent Branch of the Spelling Reform Association, which will hold monthly meetings.

This Convention was introduced by articles in the leading journals of St. Louis, giving the history and purpose of the Association. The addresses were printed in full, and the discussions reported at length. There was a good general attendance and lively interest. There is every promise of great things from St. Louis.

The American Philological Association have issued "The Proceedings" of the July meeting, containing the report of the Committee on New Spellings," which was given in full in our July Bulletin; also an abstract of President Haldeman's Address and a paper on "Assibilation," by Mr. Wightman. The Association have had two fonts of the new types cut to match those used in the "Proceedings" and in "The Transactions," and papers will be printed in both in any spelling which authors of each may adopt in harmony with the reports.

Mr. O. C. Blackmer, of Chicago, has printed a very neat edition of the Reports of the Philological Association's Committee, with explanations of the new letters in print and script, and illustration of their uses, making four pages.

"The Little Folks" go steadily forward. The numbers for November, December, and January use e, v, i, o, a, c, ç, ü, and q.

ENGLAND.

Deputations from the London School Board and 131 other Boards and the Society of Qrts, waited on the Lord President of the Council, Jan. 18, according to the plan described in our October *Bulletin*, to urge the Government to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the reform of English spelling in the interests of education. They were introduced by Sir Charles Reed, chairman of the London Board, who stated briefly who they were and what they wanted,—a commission of inquiry, not the adoption of any system.

Mr. Gladstone said that the progress of children in England

compard unfavorably with that made in other countriz, and this hē ascribd to thē irregūlaritiz of our spelling.

Dr. R. Morris, former president of thē Philological Soçiety, read rezolūtiōnz of thē Soçiety of Qrts. "1. That az thē length of tīm now found neçessary to tēach children in elementary scoolz to rēad and wrīt thē English languagj with ēaz and correctness, iz attribūtabl in a great meazūr to thē difficultiz of thē prezēt mod of spelling, it iz advjzabl fēr thē promotion of edūcation that som changj should bē effected in order to remedy thē evil. 2. That, az much of thē current spelling of English iz at varianç both with etymōlogj and pronunçiation, ther iz further rēazon why a thorough revizion should bē effected. 3. That, az no changj would bē effectūal, unless thē amended spelling wer accepted by scool inspectorz, çivil-serviç examinations, and public departments, sīd by sīd with thē prezēt spelling, thē assistanç of government will bē requird."

Dr. Angus and Mr. Rathbone, M.P., for Liverpool, Mr. Richard, M.P., for thē Welch scoolz, and Mr. A. J. Ellis, F.R.S., further urjd similar tēpics.

Thē Lōrd Prezident, thē Dūke of Richmond and Gerdon, in hīz reply, spok very emfatically of thē importanç of thē subject. "It iz of such vast importanç and so largj extent," hē said, "that it would not bē dealt with in any satisfactory way other than by the Crown bēing advjzd to issū a cōmission to inqūr into thē matter." Hē mad no promises, but wē may now sūrly announç that thē question of spelling reform iz fairly enrold among thē great questionz of soçial sçienç in the mīndz of thē statesmen and fīlosoferz of Great Britain.

Mr. A. J. Ellis read a paper en "Orthegrafy in relation to Etymōlogj and Literatūr," befor thē Colledj of Preçeptorz, Oct. 17. It waz printed in thē "Edūcational Tīmez," Dec. 1, 1877, and in a pamflet, which may bē had fēr 6d. It iz a thorough exposition of thē whol matter, in a wīd rangj of languagez, thē English first and formost. All rēaderz about spelling reform should send fēr it to Melvil Dewey, Box 260, Bōston.

ALFABET OF THE SPELLING REFORM ASSOCIATION.

Imitation in Common Typs.

Letterz unchangd: a (fat, fare), b, c=k=q, ch (church), d, e (met), f=ph, g (go), h, i (it), j (jet, jem=gem), l, m, n, ng (sing), o (no), p, r, s (so), sh (shè), t, th (thin, author, pith), u (full, rule), v, w (wet), x, y (yet), z, zh (azhure=azhur).

New Letterz.

Lower case.

a, (arm), cut d or q, arm.
 æ, (able), invert a, vble.
 è, (mè), cut and invert a, mr.
 ì=ai, (lìon), invert i, lìon.
 ø, (nøt, ør), invert e, nèt, ør.
 y or ü=yu, iu (ynit, müzic), invert
 h, ynit, mÿzic; or üz yu
 and iu, yunit, miuzic.
 u (but, burn), cut u, but, burn.
 dh, th, (then, other, with), cut f,
 fhen, ofher, wifh.

Capitalz.

Å, invert D, Årm.
 Æ, ligature, Åble.
 E, cut E, Era.
 I, cut H, Iron.
 Ø, invert Q, Ør.
 Ü, cut Q, Qnit; or
 Yunit.
 Urn.
 T, cut T, Then.

The following, containing all the English sounds, is printed with common typs prepar'd as abuv. It is in pür fonetic spelling according to Webster's pronunçiatiön:

Bì fhv fonetic alfabet a child mæ bv tət fhv art æv ræding, nèt flüentli but wel, both in fonetic and in ærdineri bucs, in thrv munthz—ai, æfn in twenti aurz æv thuro instruçshun;—a tasc hwich iz rarli acæmplisht in thrv yvrz æv tæil bì fhv old alfabet. Hwæt fathur or tæchur wil nèt gladli hæl and urnestli wurc fæv fhis græt bun tu edÿcæshun,—fhis pauvful mashv fæv fhv difÿzhun æv nœlej.

The Alphabet.

Prof. Whitney's Scēm reading downwards, frēm mor to less open letters, in thrē sērīez.

[illegible]

Compounds { Vowels, ai = i, ei, au = (ou), iu, yu = (ü, u);
C consonants, sonant dzh = j (g), surd tsh = ch [ç].

SPELLING REFORM ASSOCIATION.

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BULLETIN

OF THE

SPELLING REFORM ASSOCIATION.

Secretary's Office, 32 Hawley Street, Boston.

No. 5.

APRIL.

1878.

NEW LETTERS. — a, ask, far; e, potato; ç (s), çent; è, me; çj (j), çem; i, lion; o, not, nor; z (z), hia; th, thè; ü, music, unit; u, but, burn. Thèz letterz ar üsd for old which ar lik them in fèrm; sîlent e fînal and in inflectionz ia drøpt. Proper namz and a few other wordz recëiv spëcial trëatment. Sè Jüly Bulletin.

THE APRIL MEETING.

32 HAWLEY ST., BOSTON, MASS.

A general invitation waz givn to thè memberz of thè Association to assembl er report at thè quarterly mëeting of thè Exëcütiv Cömmitte, but az no spëcial business er spëech-making waz announçt, ther waz no great assemblaj, and thoz who met past thè tîm in cønferenç and cøngratulations upen thè work of thè past yëar and thè gëneral outlook.

Thè last quarterly përiod haz bëen markt by spëcial activity in thè press and in legîslativ action. New përiodicals in thè interest of thè rëförm hav bëen begun by Mrs. E. B. Burnz, New York, and Mr. A. Løngley, St. Louis; spelling rëförm departments hav bëen newly announçt in thè New-England Journal of Edücation" and thè "Edücational Wëekly of Chicago; important new books by Mr. Swëet, Prëzident of thè Philoløgical Socjety of London, and by Mr. Gladstone, hav bëen publisht by Macmillan & Co., and many articlz hav ap- pëard in thè magazënz, thè most important of which ar men- tiond in thè summary of Spelling Rëförm Literatür.

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"The Little Folks" has been keeping right on. In the February number it introduced ligatures of the h-digraphs (sh, ch, th, th) as recommended by the Philological Association, and adopted by the Spelling Reform Association. We have but one (th) in the "Bulletin," our poverty and not our will consenting. In March we introduced z and ð, and in April the ligature ng and capital Dh, neither of which yet has been cut for our "Bulletin." It now announces that it contains all the new letters, and claims that they embarrass no one, but assist in pronunciation. If this claim shall prove to be well founded, we see the beginning of the end of the old spelling. The publishers have had an advertisement printed with the new types inserted in several newspapers. They dispose of large amounts of spelling reform stationery.

The Legislature of Wisconsin has appointed W. C. Whitford, Supt. of Public Instruction; R. E. Davis, of Dane county; George H. Paul, of Milwaukee; George S. Albé, of Winnebago county; and John B. Quimby, of Sauk county, a commission "to inquire and determine whether any of the proposed reforms in English orthography now under consideration by legislative bodies, or practiced in any of the public schools, or commended and approved by associations of scholars and experienced teachers in this country or Europe, can be properly and expeditiously adopted, or otherwise encouraged and promoted in the public schools, as in the publication of the official documents of this State, or otherwise."

In March, concurrent resolutions passed both houses of the Pennsylvania legislature authorizing the Governor to appoint a commission of six competent persons to report upon an amended orthography for the public documents. No opposition, and some good remarks from Senators Fisher and Allen.

March 6, Senator R. M. Haines introduced a similar resolution into the Senate of Iowa, which passed without opposition, but too late for the other house.

Senator W. W. Fowler, chairman of the Connecticut Legislative Commission, which consists further of Profs. Whitney and Trumbull of Yale, Hart of Trinity, and Van Benschoten of

Wesleyan University, with Hon. B. G. Northrop, Secretary of Education, is preparing a volume on the subject for publication in advance of the next session of the legislature.

Next winter many more of the States should be moved to action. So should Congress; and to that end memorials have been prepared, and should be widely signed this summer by teachers at their conventions, and by all friends of the reform. Send to the Secretary, or to Mr. Blackmer at 147 Fifth Avenue, Chicago, for printed copies.

ENGLAND.

What with the Pope and the strikers and the Jew and the Russians, Her Majesty's Government has not had time to appoint any Spelling Commission, but the scholars in their way, and Mr. Pitman in his, have been pressing on. We have spoken of some of their publications. Mr. Ellis and the Dialect Society are very busy. Mr. Skeat has been elected Professor of Anglo-Saxon at Cambridge, and promises a *fac-simile* edition of Beowulf. English studies of this kind mean, among other things, scientific reform of modern spelling.

GERMANY.

The Conference under Government auspices, in 1876, was a very mild affair. They were for doing little but dropping a few silent letters, writing *i* regularly for *y* (except in words from the Greek!), *f* for *ph* (except, again, words from Greek!). They made lists of words of varying spelling, and tried to agree on them, and in general were wonderfully cautious. There are, however, some Germans who favor more radical reform. They have formed an association, with its headquarters at Wiesbaden, Dr. F. W. Fricke, Hon. Secretary, and issue a paper named "Reform," published by J. Kühtmann, in Bremen, of which they promise eight to ten numbers yearly, for two marks (about 50 cents). In the number for February, 1878, they announce that they have now perfected the German alphabet, according to the ideal, "for each sound one sign." They use Roman types. The two facts about it most interesting to us are (1), it agrees with us in naturalizing in Roman type the old Greek, Italian, and German form of the first letter,—i. e., *a*; (2) it uses the same character for the long and short sound of each vowel, distinguishing the long by a macron, as we do. The Government Conference also handled this subject with

great car. The current spelling has three ways of denoting a long vowel: by doubling it, writing *h* after it, writing *e* with it. The Conference agreed to abolish all these, and write the simple letter, except (the Germans always have a body of exceptions) when the additional letter is organic, or necessary to distinguish the word from another. It requires some reflection for an American reformer to appreciate the economy and convenience of this notation.

The following is printed from the original plate. It was accompanied by a note which explains the spelling:—

“In the above report of Prof. March’s address, new, or rather modified, letters have been introduced as follows:—

a for sound in *mate*, *late*, etc. o for sound in *order*, *on*, etc.

ā “ “ “ *are*, *ask*, etc. u “ “ “ *but*, *burn*, etc.

ī “ “ “ *fine*, *pine*, etc. ū “ “ “ *use*, *culture*, etc.

The fact that this address was printed without the personal supervision of the author, and by printers unfamiliar with the plan proposed will account for any errors in the use of the new letters.”

The Reform of English Spelling.

The Opening Address before the “International Convention for the Amendment of the English Orthography,” at Philadelphia, Aug. 15, by Prof. F. A. MARCH, LL.D., of Lafayette College. (A special report for *The New-England*.)

Scholars are apt to think of writing as record, and forget that it is machinery to make knowledge and culture. They brood over the record, and forget to improve the machinery. But it is doubtful whether any invention of the century does as much for the race as would the invention and adoption of a good system of spelling our language. The difference between a family who can read and one who can not, is vastly more important than the difference between a family that uses railroads and telegraphs, and one that does not. Our wretched spelling makes millions of illiterates. Three years are spent in our primary schools in learning to read and spell a little. The German advances as far in a twelvemonth. A large fraction of the school time of the millions is thus stolen from useful studies, and devoted to most painful drudgery. The child

should have its reason awakened by order, fitness, law, in the objects it is first made to study. But woe to the child who tries to use reason in spelling English. The whole thing is confounding, stupefying, and perverting; it makes great numbers of children hate the sight of a book forever, and reluct from all learning.

And it has been computed that \$15,000,000 are squandered every year in this sort of teaching, and \$3,000,000 more every year in garnishing books and papers with silent letters. There are reported to the takers of our last census 5,500,000 illiterates. One-half, at least, of those who report themselves able to read, can not read well enough to get much good from it. Good spelling would increase by millions the number of easy readers, and by millions more the number of those fond of knowledge. Moral degeneracy waits on ignorance. Christianity has not half her strength where she can not use the press. We ought, then, to improve our spelling.

ORTHOGRAPHY NOT ORTHOEPIY.

Our object is orthography, not orthoepey; we have to do with writing, not pronunciation. It is often hard to tell what is the prevailing pronunciation of a word; but that is the business of the orthoepist. Our office is to decide how to represent this pronunciation by visible signs.

AN IDEAL ALPHABET.

The essential idea of an alphabet is that each elementary sound shall have its own sign, and each sign its own sound. There are incidental qualities, such as simplicity and beauty, analogies of resemblance, and historical significance. But none of the incidental qualities must be pressed so far as to interfere with the essential purpose of the alphabet, the convenient communication of thought by signs of sounds. The perfect alphabet will not record etymology and history, to the neglect of current sounds. The popular standard alphabet of a great nation must be severely simple. It can not admit signs for

the ever-varying glides and finishes and colorings of fashionable or vulgar articulation, or even the more stable and general colorings produced by adjacent letters, unless they win significance. Alphabetic writing is a growth from picture-writing, never much influenced by ideas; and spoken language is always running away from the written.

CHANGES IN SPOKEN LANGUAGE.

1. By changes in the pronunciation of single words. The letters of unaccented syllables weaken and drop; that brings together letters which are hard to pronounce together, and one of them changes: 'Carolīna' tends to become 'Carulīna,' and then 'Culīna,' 'Culīny,' and 'Clīny.'

2. By changes of the elementary sounds. It becomes the fashion to utter some sound with a closer, or a more open utterance, or with a finish. Such changes often go on until a new sound is established, or the changing sound merges in some other old letter.

Three changes of this latter class are of special interest in English:

1. The regular assimilation by which intermediate letters spring up. Between *a* (*far*) and *e* (*met*), *a* as in 'fat,' 'fare,' has now become established; between *a* (*far*) and *o* (*no*), *o* as in 'not,' 'for'; then there is the neutral vowel of 'fun' and 'burn.' Mute consonants under vowel assimilation develop continuous or spirant consonants, as those represented by *t* in *nation*, *g* in *rouge*, *th* in *thin*, and *th* in *thine*. Six vowel sounds and four consonants of this kind unknown to the early Romans, are now used in English.

2. Changes under the accent. The close vowels *i* and *u* have been raised to diphthongs by inserting before them the sound of *a* (*far*): our long *i*, now pronounced *ai*, as in *mine*, was in Old English pronounced as in *machine*; our *ou*, that is, *au*, as in *house*, O.E. *hūs*, was spelt and pronounced like *u* in *rule*. The open and mixed vowels have become closer, *a* (*far*) changing

towards *i* or *u*, and becoming often *e* (*fate*), or *o* (*wall*); *e* (*they*) becoming like the old *i* (*machine*), and *o* becoming like the old *u* (*rule*). It has thus come about that single characters stand for diphthongs, and that the long and short sounds, which go in pairs in other languages, are denoted by different characters in ours, and are derived from different sources.

3. These pairs not being associated together, have not grown so much alike as in other languages. The *e* of *met* is so different from its long in *may*, the *i* of *fit* so different from its long in *fee*, that it is doubtful whether one character will do for both, as in Latin and German.

Our grandmother-tongue, the Anglo-Saxon, had a pretty good alphabet. The Roman missionaries, who converted the nation, reduced the language to writing in Roman letters with their common Latin powers, adding a few runes and digraphs for sounds which did not occur in Latin. Our woes spring from the Norman Conquest. The French and Anglo-Saxons united to form the English nation, and their languages were thrown into a sort of hotch-potch to form the English language. Many of the words of each nation were hard for the other to pronounce. They were spelt by the scholars to whom they were native, in the old book fashion, but the people did not pronounce them correctly. Many letters were left silent, or inserted to no purpose in ill-directed attempts to represent the strange combinations. Then the great changes already described took place in the whole gamut, so to speak, of our vowel-sounds. People hardly knew what was the matter, as these changes went on. We finally arrived at a sort of Chinese ideographic system. The written words are associated with thoughts without reference to the sounds which the separate letters might indicate. Changes in the sounds of words go on with no record in the writing. Ingenious etymologists slip in new silent letters as records of history drawn from their imagination; old monsters, fertile in the popular fancy, propagate

themselves in the congenial environment; and altogether we have attained the worst spelling on the planet. And we have been proud of it, and are fond of it.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

What can be done for reform? We can produce dissatisfaction with our present spelling: that is easy.

We can teach the people what spelling ought to be: that is harder.

We can harmonize views as to the changes which are practicable, and the methods of introducing them.

And then we can use the reformed spelling, and get others to use it.

PREPARATORY WORK.

Comparative philology is based on phonetics. Our most eminent philologists have published vigorous essays of demonstration, objugation, and appeal against our monstrous spelling. Our venerable chief, the Hon. George P. Marsh, Prof. Hadley, the presidents of the American Philological Association, Whitney, Trumbull, Haldeman, stand side by side with Prof. Max Müller, the presidents of the London Philological Society, Ellis, Pitman, Bell, and other practical workers, and with all scholars, great and small, of other nations.

The historical study of English, the publications of the Early English Text Society, and other reprints of original editions of early writers, of Chaucer, Spenser, Shakespeare, in their own spelling, have made all young scholars familiar with many ways of spelling, and with the early powers of our letters. The spelling of our narrators in dialect and our comic writers, Burns, Scott, Dickens, Josh Billings, helps. We make the widgest guesses at the sounds which they mean to indicate, and read Burns to ourselves in a Scottish which no Scot ever dreamed of; but at least we escape from the common spelling.

Teachers work to the same end, especially in regions where there are Germans in the schools. German parents can not

be made to understand why a good teacher should keep their children four or five years in the spelling-book. Superintendents want to make English as easy as German.

Teachers of elocution teach phonetic systems, which are often used in our common schools in reading-classes. Many primers introduce children to our present written language through a phonetic system. Many persons learn phonetic stenography, and there are a large number of teachers of it, and of periodicals published in its interest. Teachers of Latin and Greek and other foreign tongues, also help. Most persons forty or fifty years old would be astonished to learn how wide preparation for a change of spelling has already been made in the younger generation. Add foreigners and others who do not know that Josh Billings does not spell as well as anybody, and it would seem that three-fourths of our readers would read without new embarrassment in a reformed spelling, while the 5,500,000 illiterates might be taught it in half the time of the old.

SCHEMES OF REFORM.

The remedy for single words which have silent letters or blundering spelling, is plain. Drop the silent letters, correct the blunders.

The remedy for the general insufficiency and contrariety of our notation, is by no means obvious. There are three methods of cure, each of which has its show of reason and able advocates.

The first is the adoption of a new set of signs, which shall answer better than the Roman characters to an ideal alphabet. If all our books and newspapers had to be prepared by penmen, Pitman's stenography, or something like it, would long since have displaced the Roman letters. The press has saved them. It is not unlikely that hand-machines for printing may take the place of the pen, and open the way for the use of more

elaborate and significant characters, like those of Mr. Bell. But the Roman alphabet is so widely and firmly established among the leading civilized nations, that it can not be soon displaced. In adapting it to improved use in English, two plans may be followed. One is to hold the Roman values of the letters as nearly as they exist in English, and supplement by the invention of new characters, and the use of diacritical marks. This is the system which scholars use in writing, when they wish to represent the true sounds of English words, and it brings us into accord with other nations. They would prefer it, if it can be introduced. It is as follows :

The letters which have their Roman sound, or nearly that, in familiar use, should retain it : *a* (*far*), *e* (*let*), *i* (*pit*), *o* (*note*), *u* (*bull*), *b*, *c* (*k*), *d*, *f*, *g* (*go*), *h*, *l*, *m*, *n*, *p*, *r*, *s* (*so*), *t*. We must add the consonants *v*, *w*, *y*, *z*. There are three new short vowels which need signs : those in *fat*, *not*, *but*. For these the easiest signs to introduce are easily recognizable variations of *a*, *o*, *u*, such as, for example, *a*, *σ*, *υ*. It has been generally found best to use the same sign for a short vowel and its long, adding a diacritical mark when greater precision is needed. This would probably be acceptable for the sounds of *α* (*past*, *far*), *α* (*fat*, *fare*), *ο* (*obey*, *note*), *υ* (*bull*, *rude*), *σ* (*not*, *nør*), *υ* (*but*, *burn*). There is doubt about *e* (*let*, *late*) and *i* (*pick*, *pique*) ; a variation of *e*, looking like *a*, such as *è* and *i* looking like *e*, such as *ë* have good promise. For diphthongs there are *ai* (*by*), *au* (*house*), *œi* (*noise*), *iu* (*music*). It seems almost necessary at first to use for *ai* some variation of *i*, and for *iu* some variation of *u*, such as, for example, *î*, *û*. Then there are the consonants, *th*, *dh* (*thin*, *thine*), *sh*, *zh* (*sugar*, *pleasure*), *ng* (*sing*), and the combinations *tsh* (*church*), *dzh* (*judge*), which await their signs in the perfect alphabet.

For this system it may be said that it is easy to read for all who read French, German, Latin or Greek, or Anglo-Saxon, and will have all learned associations in its favor. It will be

easiest for children and the illiterate to learn. It will make the learning of foreign tongues easy; it will settle the school pronunciation of Latin and Greek; it will revive the speech of our classic English authors. As we now read "Hamlet" and the "Canterbury Tales," Shakespeare would understand them with difficulty, Chaucer hardly at all.

It has been often explained by our students of etymology that such a reform will not hinder, but rather help etymological investigations. Old spellings are preserved in old books. It will, however, make it harder for persons little versed in etymology to recognize at sight words of Latin or other foreign origin in English books.

It is thought that it will be hard to introduce it; that the printers can not use it for want of types, and nobody can read it without study. These objections have force against the sudden use of the whole scheme, but may be met by its gradual introduction, and by temporary expedients. All the new vowels may be substituted for the old ones which they resemble, when the old ones have the intended sound, without embarrassing any reader; and gradually the consonants. Printers who have not the new types, can use those like them, with a dot: a· for α, o· for ο, u· for υ, and the like. Everything in this direction is clear gain.

The other system is to follow the analogies of the present English spelling, to give our single letters the value which they have oftenest, and to supplement with those digraphs which now most commonly represent the sounds which would have no single letter to represent them. Two powerful reasons may be urged for a trial of this method:

1. It can be easily read by any one who can read English now.
2. It can be printed with common types.

It may be further said that it is in the line of the regular development of our language; the most frequent mode of rep-

resenting each sound displaces the less frequent, according to the usual law of conformation.

Many of the objections to this system would be removed by regarding the digraphs which are appropriated to elementary sounds, as single characters, and naming them as such by the elementary sound, so as to make no mention of the separate letters. They should be cast as one type; then the type-founders would soon invent shapely abbreviations, which would be good enough signs, and record some English history to boot. In reducing this scheme to practice, difficulties arise. The aspect of large numbers of words is so completely changed, that easy reading is out of the question. It is associated with buffoonery, vulgarity, and illiteracy, and excites odium, ridicule, and violent opposition. In spite of all, there are many persons to whom it is more acceptable than any other scheme, and the use of it clearly contributes to genuine reform in the present stage of the movement.

PRACTICAL ACTION.

It is desirable to gain the assent of the most eminent scholars and leading practical workers to definite measures of reform. A national or international association of permanent workers, with subordinate societies may be formed, who can urge the cause by lectures, the press, and otherwise.

Reformed spelling may be introduced into the transactions of the learned societies. The philological societies of England and America, national and state teachers' associations, associations for the advancement of science, and other similar bodies may be looked to with hope.

The legislatures may introduce new spelling into public documents. Preparatory measures, as far as the appointment of committees to examine and report on this matter, have been taken in several of our States, and they awaken no opposition. This preliminary action is a great step as gathering up a certain authority for the movement. The actual use of improved

spelling in such transactions and documents would give it authority without awakening popular hostility.

We may get more or less of the reforms into the newspapers and popular books. It may be used in many books as explanatory of other spelling. Dictionaries of it must be made. The grand point of assault is the school room. To make teachers use it themselves, and teach it,—to have school-books, primers, spellers, readers, and all other books printed in it, are the great things to be worked for. Win the school room, and the cause is won.

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